



Town of Garrett Park  
PO Box 84  
4600 Waverly Avenue  
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council  
Public Teleconference

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## **Town Council Meeting: October 19, 2020**

### **MINUTES**

**Call to Order (7:31 PM)** The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Dan Simons (Mayor Kacky was out of town). Present on the call were Councilmembers Gerilee Bennett, Mario Grande, Phil Schulp, and Stephen Paczkowski. Also, on the call were Interim Town Manager Debi Sandlin, Town Assistant Elizabeth Henley and Administrative Support, Joanne Schmader. Approximately eight (8) residents were also on the call.

**Approval of Agenda (7:31 PM)** Councilmember Schulp proposed adding a Clean and Lean ordinance discussion item to the agenda. The agenda was approved with the amendment.

**Approval of Minutes (7:38 PM)** Approval of the September 14, 2020 Town Council meeting minutes was pushed to the November Town Council meeting to allow more time for Interim Town Manager Sandlin to make additional edits.

### **Presentation by Residents (7:39 pm)**

Resident at 11118 Kenilworth presented the Garrett Park Parents group proposal for Halloween activities scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 9 pm. Participants will be required to wear masks, including under a Halloween mask, maintain social distancing and avoid large groups in order to minimize exposure of the Covid-19 virus. All candy must be individually wrapped and spread across a table or delivered in a socially distant way.

**Actions** (none)

**New Business** (none)

### **Town Updates – (7:51 PM)**

**SRTS Project** – Acting Mayor Dan Simons gave a brief update on the status of the SRTS. He stated the sidewalk construction and outfalls are complete and a punch list is still being compiled with items being added. Paperwork will need to be completed and submitted to the State. Councilmember Paczkowski requested an invitation be sent out to the full Council to listen in on any of the audit calls for the project.

**Stormwater** – Councilmember Grande gave an update on stormwater projects to include:

- An erosion control update for the swell at the end of Rokeby – A revised erosion control plan will be completed for installing erosion control measures in the swell; the project is moving forward nicely.
- Clermont Avenue– Based on the recommendations of the Town Attorney, a storm water piping drainage system inventory will be developed to identify the responsible agency for repairing and replacing piping throughout the community, whether the County, State or Town. The analysis needs to be completed first before we can move forward. The contract is in the hands of Interim Town Manager Debi Sandlin. Montrose to be repaired shortly.

**\*Times listed are approximate. Please allow extra time if you plan to attend for a specific item.\***

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- The Oxford/Montrose property permit review was denied by the county due to stormwater issues.

**Train Whistle** – Councilmembers Simons & Schulp said they have a contract proposal out to engage a company; and a detailed scope of work has been completed. A company has not yet been engaged. Currently out for review.

**Archives** – Councilmember Schulp noted that Town Archivist Clair McDonald has set up an exhibit in the Post Office display case highlighting Charles Momsen, a former Garrett Park resident, a highly decorated Naval Officer and the inventor of the Momsen Lung; a virtual presentation was hosted on October 15<sup>th</sup> to highlight Momsen's time in Garrett Park and his work on the Squalus during World War II. Archivist McDonald continues to work on records management and has continued to receive donations.

**Arboretum** – Councilmember Bennett reminded residents they cannot remove trees or plants in the Town's right-of-way and tree planting is subject to town approval. The Arboretum committee is completing the fall planting plan and the mapping of trees. She also stated a Porcupine Woods planting restoration proposal will be presented to council at the November Council meeting.

**Land Use** – Councilmember Paczkowski reported he has been working with the Land Use Advisory Committee to update the GP Ordinance and later the Montgomery County Zoning Overlay for Garrett Park. Background information is being assembled with the rationale for each update under consideration.

**PEPCO street lightening** – Councilmember Schulp said PEPCO plans to submit a rate change and file the paperwork at the end of the month. He also commented they plan to change Pepco owned streetlights to LED. He noted the Town spent approximately a quarter million dollars to change the lights to incandescent lights back in 2003 and that residents have expressed concerns with changing from incandescent lights to LED. Interim Town Manager Debi Sandlin and Councilmember Schulp are scheduled to have a meeting on 10/20/20 with Pepco to discuss residents' concerns.

**Historic Preservation** – Councilmember Paczkowski provided updates on The GP Historic Preservation Committee's recent work, which included multiple Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) reviews, a virtual meeting with County HP officials, Town review process in general, as well as rooftop - solar panel permits in the HAWP district, as these are likely to become more prevalent.

**Clean & Lien** – Councilmember Schulp recommended inserting a Clean and Lien ordinance into the Town Code to give the Town the ability to go on private property to take care of urgent matters. This recommendation stemmed from a recent concern about a tree on private property that was in danger of falling and, if no action was taken by the homeowner, whether the Town could remove the tree and charge the expense to the homeowner. In consultation with the Town attorney, we learned that the Town currently does not have any ordinance that authorizes the Town to remove trees on private property and charge the property owner for the expense. He also informed us that enforcement could be costly and require court action.

**Town Manager's Report (8:34 PM)** – Interim Town Manager Debi Sandlin discussed the September Financial Report and Town Manager's Report.

**Adjournment (8:38 PM)**

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